

2020 Monthly County-Level Food Insecurity in California

In 2020, what started as a health crisis quickly became a hunger crisis. Food insecurity in California spiked to unprecedented levels statewide with more than 25% of California households experiencing food insecurity – about 10 million people, and 2.5 times higher than before COVID-19. Even worse, there are deep racial and ethnic disparities, with Latinx, Black, and other households from communities of color facing [higher rates of food insecurity than white Californians](#). Below are the monthly levels of county-level food insecurity reported in 2020.

County	Phase 1*				Phases 2-3*				
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alameda	18%	19%	20%	22%	21%	18%	20%	21%	25%
Alpine	26%	29%	29%	32%	31%	27%	29%	31%	36%
Amador	15%	17%	17%	19%	18%	16%	17%	18%	21%
Butte	18%	20%	20%	22%	21%	19%	20%	21%	25%
Calaveras	16%	17%	18%	19%	19%	16%	18%	19%	22%
Colusa	36%	40%	41%	44%	43%	38%	41%	43%	51%
Contra Costa	18%	20%	20%	22%	21%	19%	20%	21%	25%
Del Norte	14%	15%	16%	17%	16%	15%	16%	17%	20%
El Dorado	19%	21%	21%	23%	22%	19%	21%	22%	26%
Fresno	22%	24%	24%	26%	25%	22%	24%	25%	30%
Glenn	19%	21%	22%	23%	23%	20%	21%	23%	27%
Humboldt	17%	18%	19%	20%	20%	17%	19%	20%	23%
Imperial	34%	37%	38%	41%	39%	35%	38%	40%	47%
Inyo	17%	18%	19%	20%	19%	17%	19%	20%	23%
Kern	23%	25%	26%	28%	27%	24%	26%	27%	32%
Kings	20%	22%	22%	24%	23%	20%	22%	23%	27%
Lake	18%	20%	20%	22%	21%	19%	20%	22%	25%
Lassen	11%	12%	13%	14%	13%	12%	13%	13%	16%
Los Angeles	26%	28%	29%	31%	30%	27%	29%	30%	36%
Madera	20%	22%	22%	24%	23%	21%	22%	23%	28%
Marin	14%	16%	16%	17%	17%	15%	16%	17%	20%
Mariposa	21%	23%	24%	26%	25%	22%	24%	25%	29%
Mendocino	18%	19%	20%	22%	21%	18%	20%	21%	24%
Merced	23%	26%	26%	29%	27%	24%	26%	28%	33%
Modoc	15%	17%	17%	19%	18%	16%	17%	18%	21%

Mono	30%	33%	34%	37%	35%	31%	34%	35%	42%
Monterey	26%	29%	30%	32%	31%	27%	29%	31%	37%
Napa	21%	23%	24%	26%	25%	22%	24%	25%	29%
Nevada	17%	19%	19%	21%	20%	18%	19%	20%	24%
Orange	18%	19%	20%	22%	21%	18%	20%	21%	24%
Placer	16%	18%	18%	20%	19%	17%	18%	19%	23%
Plumas	22%	24%	25%	27%	26%	23%	25%	26%	31%
Riverside	19%	21%	21%	23%	22%	20%	21%	23%	27%
Sacramento	18%	20%	20%	22%	21%	19%	20%	21%	25%
San Benito	26%	29%	29%	32%	31%	27%	29%	31%	36%
San Bernardino	17%	18%	19%	20%	20%	17%	19%	20%	23%
San Diego	19%	21%	21%	23%	22%	19%	21%	22%	26%
San Francisco	18%	19%	20%	21%	21%	18%	20%	21%	24%
San Joaquin	22%	25%	25%	27%	26%	23%	25%	26%	31%
San Luis Obispo	17%	19%	19%	21%	20%	18%	19%	20%	23%
San Mateo	16%	17%	18%	19%	18%	16%	17%	18%	22%
Santa Barbara	17%	19%	20%	21%	20%	18%	19%	21%	24%
Santa Clara	16%	17%	18%	19%	18%	16%	17%	18%	22%
Santa Cruz	22%	24%	24%	27%	26%	23%	24%	26%	30%
Shasta	18%	20%	20%	22%	21%	19%	20%	21%	25%
Sierra	16%	18%	18%	19%	19%	17%	18%	19%	22%
Siskiyou	18%	19%	20%	22%	21%	18%	20%	21%	24%
Solano	18%	20%	21%	22%	22%	19%	21%	22%	26%
Sonoma	19%	21%	21%	23%	22%	20%	21%	22%	26%
Stanislaus	21%	23%	24%	26%	25%	22%	24%	25%	30%
Sutter	23%	26%	26%	29%	27%	24%	26%	27%	32%
Tehama	17%	18%	19%	20%	20%	17%	19%	20%	23%
Trinity	14%	15%	15%	17%	16%	14%	15%	16%	19%
Tulare	24%	27%	27%	30%	28%	25%	27%	29%	34%
Tuolumne	19%	21%	21%	23%	22%	20%	21%	23%	27%
Ventura	18%	20%	20%	22%	21%	19%	20%	21%	25%
Yolo	15%	16%	16%	18%	17%	15%	16%	17%	20%
Yuba	19%	21%	21%	23%	22%	19%	21%	22%	26%

* Data prepared by Max De Faria, Emerson National Hunger Fellow, based on analysis of the Census Household Pulse Survey by Diane Schanzenbach at the Northwestern University Institute for Policy Research, and Kristin Schumacher at the California Budget & Policy Center. Note: Phase 1 and Phases 2-3 are not directly comparable. While the food insecurity questions are identical, the Census Bureau added questions to the survey, which affected response rates.

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